

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /158 W
----- 090630

R 220800Z DEC 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 693

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 676

KUWAIT PASS GULF POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, IZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRENCH MINISTER

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CERLES TOLD ME THAT DEC 16-18 VISIT OF MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY JEAN CHARBONNEL CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF IRAQI PRESSURE FOR HIGHER LEVEL FRENCH VISIT SINCE RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO PARIS IN JULY 1972. GOF HAD AGREED AND VISIT SCHEDULED FOR EARLY OCTOBER THEN RESCHEDULED BECAUSE OF WAR. CERLES SAID THAT AS ANTICIPATED NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE AND NO AGREEMENTS SIGNED. IN FACT CHARBONNEL VERY INTERESTED IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME VISITING BABYLON, NIMRUD AND NINEVEH.

2. GOI ON OTHER HAND PLAYED VISIT AS MAJOR OCCURENCE AND
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MAXIMUM PUBLICITY GIVEN TO CHARBONNEL'S CALLS ON SADDAM

HUSSEIN, MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY.

3. CERLES SAID ONE OF FEW SUBSTANTIVE POINTS THAT CAME UP WAS IRAQI COMPLAINT THAT WHILE FRENCH POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST IS FINE FRENCH COMPANIES HAD NOT DRAWN PROPER CONCLUSIONS FROM IT. SADDAM HUSSEIN SAID IRAQ'S ESTIMATED OIL INCOME IN 1974 WOULD BE TEN BILLION DOLLARS AND STRESSED THAT IRAQ NOT INTERESTED IN EXTORTING MORE MONEY FROM CONSUMER NATIONS, BUT WISHED TO MAKE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL AID IRAQ'S INDUSTRIALIZATION AND MODERNIZATION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE CAME OUT OF VISIT, FRENCH CONTINUING TO EXPAND THEIR COMMERCIAL POSITION BY SIGNING OF 136 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT DEC 8 FOR FIRST STAGE BASRA IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX AND EARLIER CONTRACT FOR EXPANSION OF KIRKUK PIPELINE. THEY ARE ALSO ACTIVE IN IRRIGATION SECTOR AND FRENCH FIRM WILL SIGN CONTRACT DEC 23 FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY OF LARGE IRRIGATION PROJECT. FRENCH FIRMS HAVE, HOWEVER, LOST BIG PROJECTS IN OIL SECTOR SUCH AS PIPELINES AND TERMINALS, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF APPROACH OF FRENCH FIRMS. LOWRIE

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